

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUANDA 00596 131151Z

17-12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-08

SCEM-02 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01

/164 W

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R 131120Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2351

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LISBON

UNCLAS LUANDA 0596

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, AO

SUBJ: GASOLINE, LP GAS PRICES TO RISE BUT NO RATIONING ...YET

REF: A) LUANDA 0573; B) LUANDA 0587

1. MORNING PRESS NOV 13 REPORTS PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL
MET NOV 12 TO "ADOPT" FOLLOWING FUEL PROGRAM:

A) NO RATIONING UNTIL ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

B) HOLD PRICE LINE ON DIESEL FUEL IN VIEW ITS IMPORTANCE TO
PUBLIC TRANSPORT, INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE. FUEL FUND (FUNDO
DE COMPESACAO DE COMBUSTIVEIS) TO COVER DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
SELLING PRICE HERE AND IMPORT COST "PROVIDE FUND HAS NECESSARY
RESOURCES."

C) RAISE PRICES OF GASOLINE AND LP GAS WITH INCREASE GOING
TO FUEL FUND. (AMOUNT OF INCREASE NOT GIVEN.)

D) MAINTAIN UNCHANGED PRESENT PRICE OF FUEL OIL. (PRE-
SUMABLY THIS ALSO INCLUDES NAVAL FUELS.)

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PAGE 02 LUANDA 00596 131151Z

E) REDUCE PROFIT MARGINS OF DISTRIBUTORS (MOBIL, SACOR, TEXACO, FINA, SHELL), USING MONEY THUS GENERATED FOR NEW INVESTMENT "TO ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION." (MEANING INCREASE CAPACITY OF LOCAL REFINERY WHICH NOW ONLY ACCOUNTS FOR 40 PERCENT LOCALLY CONSUMED GASOLINE.)

2. THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY OF ECONOMY WILL SHORTLY ANNOUNCE AMOUNTS OF THE PRICE INCREASES WHICH ARE WIDELY EXPECTED TO BE PERCENTAGES IDENTICAL TO THOSE IN METROPOLE OR PERHAPS INCONSEQUENTIALLY SMALLER. (PRESENT GASOLINE PRICE IS ESCUDOS 5.50/LITER FOR SINGLE GRADE OF NOMINAL NINETY OCTANE.)

3. PRESS FURTHER REPORTS COUNCIL CONFIDENT THAT THANKS RECENT GOVERNMENT ACTIONS POSSIBLE FOR ANGOLA DEVELOP SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN MASS-CONSUMED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.

4. COMMENT. IMPLYING THAT LOCAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY IS EASILY OR QUICKLY TO BE REALIZED (AS DOES NOV 13 PRESS ACCOUNT) IS AN EXTREME CASE OF WHISTLING-IN-THE-DARK.
BRIGGS

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